

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Two decades of media deregulation have left just a handful of corporations owning virtually every channel on the TV and radio. This should never have taken place, and further deregulation will only lead to more of the same.

This deregulation has left a large gap in what the 250 million citizens of the USA hear about what their government is doing in their name. This may be good for the Washington insiders seeking to avoid prying eyes, however the US is a weaker democracy as a result.

This has got to stop, and I want my voice to be heard in this process since I am both a taxpayer and a citizen.